United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1138
11 May 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General travels to Washington D.C. for meetings with United States President, Secretary of State and other Government officials.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Mohammed Sahnoun, meets with General Aideed, United Nations agencies plan coordinated approach to providing humanitarian assistance.

+ Secretary-General accepts invitation for United Nations to attend second plenary session of Convention for democratic South Africa as observer.

+ President of Azerbaijan appeals to international assistance to end violence in Nagorno-Karabakh; Armenia requests urgent meeting of Security Council to discuss situation in that region.

+ Phase two of Cambodian cease-fire agreement -- demobilization of armed forces under control of United Nations Transitional Authority -- to begin on 13 June.

+ President of Ukraine cites slackening interest of international community in Chernobyl disaster; urges United Nations to continue political, economic, military assistance to his country.

+ United Nations Drug Control programme receives 1992 Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Award.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali leaves New York this evening for Washington D.C, where he will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, 12 May, United States President George Bush and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs James A. Baker.

The Secretary-General will also meet with members of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committee of Congress. The meeting is

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hosted by Senator Claiborne Pell and Representative Dante Fascell. On Wednesday 13 May, at the invitation of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Mr. Boutros-Ghali will deliver an address on Capitol Hill. He will also visit the United Nations Information Centre in Washington. At noon, the Secretary-General will attend a reception and luncheon at the National Press Club, following which he will address the audience and answer questions. He will depart for New York on Wednesday evening.

Earlier today, the Secretary-General met with Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, who has just returned from his visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Goulding is preparing a report on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Secretary-General, who will submit the final document to the Security Council for consideration later this week.

During his visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Goulding has held talks with Yugoslav leaders on the feasibility of sending a United Nations peace-keeping force to that region.

This afternoon, before leaving for Washington D.C., the Secretary-General hosted a private luncheon for former General Secretary of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev.

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In Somalia, the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mohammed Sahnoun, met yesterday with the Chairman of the United Somali Congress, General Aideed, to discuss a wide range of issues relating to the conflict in that country. A United Nations Spokesman said today that those issues included the cessation of hostilities, the question of Somali refugees who have been gathering on the Somali/Kenya border, as well as the possible deployment of United Nations observers and security personnel in Mogadishu. The two have also agreed to continue their consultations on all the issues, the Spokesman said.

On the plight of the refugees, Ambassador Sahnoun expressed concern to correspondents following the meeting, and announced that representatives from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who had visited the camps, were in the process of arranging relief assistance. The Heads of United Nations Agencies in Somalia are also expected to meet with Ambassador Sahnoun today, in the first of a planned series of regular meetings aimed at developing a coordinated approach to humanitarian assistance to Somalia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has accepted an invitation for the United Nations to attend, as an observer, the second plenary session of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA II), which will take place on 15 and 16 May in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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The United Nations participated as an observer in the first meeting of CODESA in December 1991, and supports the negotiating process for a democratic South Africa. In a statement released at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General said the United Nations attaches great importance to CODESA II and urged "all the representatives of the South African people to make a concerted effort at the session in order to establish the foundation for a new constitution for a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa".

The United Nations delegation attending the Convention will include Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan, the Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who will lead the delegation; Hisham Omayad, the Director of the Department of Political Affairs; and N. Bwakira, Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa, the Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Azerbaijan has protested what it called "a concentrated bombing attack" by Armenian forces against the city of Shusha in the province of Nagorno-Karabakh on Saturday, 9 May, resulting in the occupation and destruction of the city with heavy loss of life.

In a statement on Saturday, the President of Azerbaijan, Y. Mamedov, described the attack by "Armenian militarists" as a "barbarian action" and warned that the destruction of the city "would, inevitably, elicit an appropriate response", and that the battle might "develop into a large-scale conflict". Mr. Mamedov appealed to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the President of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and other States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Turkey and Iran, as well as the international community, to assist his country in preventing an escalation of the violence.

The President's statement was transmitted to the President of the Security Council in a letter, dated 10 May, and signed by Permanent Representative to the U.N. of Azerbaijan, Hassan A. Hassanov.

Meanwhile, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian has requested an emergency meeting of the Security Council to discuss the "escalation of the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh". According to a press communiqué issued by the Armenian Mission today, the request was transmitted to the Council President in a letter, dated 9 May.
(S/23894)

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The Commander of the military component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, has announced that the most important phase of the peace-keeping operation would begin on 13 June.

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According to a statement issued by the spokesman for UNTAC on Saturday, 9 May, the date signals the beginning of the regroupment and cantonment process in which the armed forces place themselves under UNTAC control in "cantonment areas" to be disarmed and await demobilization. It is anticipated that that process will take about four weeks.

General Sanderson made the announcement after receiving assurances from the commanders of the armed forces of the four factions that the Cambodian Peace agreement would be respected. The Cambodian Peace Agreement was signed in Paris last October and led to the establishment of UNTAC.

Recent reports of cease-fire violations in Kompong Thom province were high on the agenda at the meetings over the weekend, along with other issues associated with setting the Phase Two date. General Sanderson expressed his confidence in the ability of the United Nations in undertaking the many challenges involved in the Cambodian Mission.

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The President of Ukraine, Leonid M. Kravchuk, said today that his country was building "a non-block, nuclear-free and neutral State" which wanted to occupy its proper place in the European and world communities. Speaking to correspondents at Headquarters, Mr. Kravchuk announced that in discussion with the Secretary-General today, they had agreed that the United Nations should establish a mission in the Ukraine to ensure that the country could take an active part in "all the transformations occurring in the United Nations". He also expressed hope that the Organization would continue to provide assistance in political, economic, military spheres, as well as in the destruction of nuclear weapons.

Calling attention to the Chernobyl disaster, Mr. Kravchuk said there had been "some slackening of international attention to Chernobyl" where some 5 million people live and he welcomed the United Nations efforts to mitigate the effects of the accident.

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The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has received the 1992 Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Award in recognition of the programme's "positive work" in the fight against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and for the search for peace in this world.

A press release issued in Vienna today said the Award was established in 1984 by the Colombian Government and the Lara Bonilla family to commemorate former Colombian Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who was shot to death by drug traffickers on 30 April 1984 in Bogota, Colombia. It was accepted on behalf of the Programme by Arturo Hein, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Columbia, at a special ceremony held April 30 in Neiva, the capital city of the Department of Huila.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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12 May 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets in Washington with President George Bush; has wide exchange of views with Secretary of State James A. Baker on large number of United Nations-related issues, as well as United States financial participation in peace-keeping operations.

+ Security Council considers request by Armenia for urgent meeting of the Council on situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

+ Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Tripoli, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, meets with Libyan leader in connection with Security Council's request for that country's cooperation with regard to downing of Pam Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

+ Secretary-General recommends that General Assembly appropriate an additional $764 million for United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia through 31 October 1992; as of 30 April, unpaid assessed contributions by Member States total $139 million.

+ United Nations High Commission for Refugees warns of lack of "agricultural land" in the four north-western provinces of Cambodia for returnees; Agency is seeking alternative options for resettlement.

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In Washington D.C. this morning, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met for "over one and a half hours" with U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III for a wide-ranging exchange of views on a large number of issues on the United Nations agenda.

According to the Spokesman accompanying him, the Secretary-General and Mr. Baker discussed the present situation in Afghanistan in the light of Mr. Boutros-Ghali's recent visit to the region and the progress of the United Nations operation in Cambodia. They also discussed the question of Libya, and the Secretary-General informed Mr. Baker of the mission to Tripoli of his Special Envoy, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky.

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With regard to the situation in Somalia, the Secretary-General briefed Mr. Baker on the efforts of his Special Representative for that country, Mohammed Sahnoun, and stressed the importance of solving that country's problems in view of the human suffering there. The Secretary of State and Mr. Boutros-Ghali also reviewed the El Salvador peace accords and the situation in Haiti.

Turning to the situation in Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General briefed Mr. Baker on the recent mission of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding to Bosnia-Herzegovina to examine the feasibility of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in that region.

Among other topics, Mr. Baker and the Secretary-General discussed the current fighting in the Sudan, the general state of relations between North and South in the context of the ending of the Cold War, the situation in the Middle East, and the United States financial contribution of United Nations peace-keeping operations.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with President George Bush, after which he would attend a working luncheon hosted by President Bush in his honour. This afternoon, the Secretary-General would meet jointly with members of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

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The Security Council was expected to hold consultations this afternoon to consider a request by Armenia for an urgent meeting of the Council on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. The request was contained in a letter to the Council President, dated 9 May, in which the President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosian, asked for an emergency meeting of the Council to discuss "the escalation of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the continuing blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and the threat of potential outside intervention in the region". (S/23896)

On Saturday, 9 May, the President of Azerbaijan, Y. Mamedov, protested to the United Nations for what he called "a concentrated bombing attack" by Armenian forces against the city of Shusha in the province of Nagorno-Karabakh. According to the statement, the attacks by the Armenian forces resulted in the occupation and destruction of Shusha with heavy loss of life.

At a press conference at Headquarters this morning, the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, Hasan Hassano, pointed out that the problems between the two new United Nations Member States exceeded the conflict zone in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said his country would request that the Council send a fact-finding mission to the region to examine the situation between the two States and make recommendations on a ways to solve the crisis.

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The Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Tripoli, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, met yesterday with Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi and with the Foreign Minister of Libya in connection with the Security Council's request for Libya's cooperation in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, Mr. Petrovsky sent an interim report this morning on his meetings with the Libyan leader to the Secretary-General in Washington D.C. Mr. Petrovsky will submit his final report to the Secretary-General when he returns to New York on Friday, 15 May.

The Secretary-General asked Mr. Petrovsky on 7 May to travel to Libya carrying a message to Colonel Qaddafi. The trip was in the framework of the Secretary-General's mandate under the Security Council's resolutions 731 (1992) of 20 January and resolution 748 (1992) of 13 March. Under resolution 748, the Council had set a 15 April deadline for Libya to comply with its request for cooperation in establishing its responsibility for the downing of the two aircraft. The sanctions imposed under resolution 748 - currently in effect - include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on diplomatic staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate an additional $764 million for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) through 31 October 1992. That would bring to some $998 million the total appropriations so far for the combined operations of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) and UNTAC. The total cost of UNTAC is estimated at approximately 1.9 billion through end of July 1993, exclusive the cost for repatriation and rehabilitation programmes.

In his report to the General Assembly on the financing of UNTAC, dated 7 May, the Secretary-General pointed out that as of 30 April, only $94 million of the $233 million initially apportioned to Member States had been received, resulting in unpaid assessed contributions of $139 million. With regard to voluntary contributions, the Secretary-General appealed to member States "to consider making available voluntary contributions in cash and in kind" in support of UNTAC's operation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali further appealed to member countries to contribute to the repatriation programmes to be undertaken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He said he would recommend alternative arrangements in case of shortfall in the funding of the repatriation component.

With respect to the rehabilitation programme, the Secretary-General launched an appeal to the donor community for assistance, during his recent visit to Cambodia. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali stresses in his report that the rehabilitation of Cambodia's infrastructure "will assist the operation of UNTAC during the transitional period".

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The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) was absorbed into UNTAC as of 15 March 1992. The Secretary-General recommended in his report that the expenditures relating to both operations be combined into the Special Account for UNTAC. (A/46/903)

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The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) acknowledged today that there will probably not be sufficient agricultural land in the four north-western provinces of Cambodia for returnees. As a result, the UNHCR is seeking alternative options for the resettlement of Cambodian refugees.

According to a statement released in Phnom Penh today, the UNHCR is expanding the search for land and is studying several non-agricultural options in conjunction with the Supreme National Council. Priority will be given to family reunion cases and also the families wishing to return to their villages of origin.

Today's report from Phnom Penh states that as of 8 May, 6,828 Cambodians have been repatriated from camps inside Thailand. The 626 returnees who arrived in the Cambodian capital on 30 April aboard "The Sisophon Express" left the reception centre and have settled in six villages in Kompong Speu province.

Total requirements for the Cambodian repatriation operation are budgeted at $84.3 million for 1990-1992. Contributions received as of 8 May totaled $75.4 million.

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13 May 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council welcomes urgent dispatch by Secretary-General of fact-finding mission to Nagorno-Karabakh and calls for end to violence in that region.

+ Secretary-General reports that "it is not at present feasible" to dispatch peace-keeping operation to Bosnia-Herzegovina; says recent developments "have raised new doubts about the practicability" of United Nations operation in Croatia.

+ In address in Washington, Secretary-General proposes increased effort to "decentralize" responsibilities for peace-keeping and peace-making; calls on regional organizations "to carry larger share of burden".

+ United States President George Bush expresses full support for United Nations peace-keeping and peace-making activities; informs Secretary-General that he will attend Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro next month.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, reports that voter registration for September elections in Angola will begin on 20 May.

+ Ellen Johnson Sirleaf appointed Assistant Administrator of United Nations Development Programme and Director of Regional Bureau for Africa.

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The Security Council has welcomed the urgent dispatch by the Secretary-General of a fact-finding mission to the Nagorno-Karabakh region to study ways of assisting the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict there.

In a statement read out last night by Council President, Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), the Council also called on all concerned "to take all steps necessary to bring the violence to an end" and to facilitate the work of

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the Secretary-General's mission. The mission will also examine how the international community can provide prompt humanitarian assistance to the region.

In the Presidential statement, the Council expressed deep concern at the violations of the cease-fire agreement and at reports on the deteriorating situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Council supported the efforts of the European Conference and other efforts aimed at promoting a peaceful settlement and at providing humanitarian assistance.

The convening of the Council was requested by the President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosia, who had asked for "an emergency meeting" to discuss the escalation of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. At a press conference this morning at Headquarters, the Armenian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Alexander Arzoumanian, said the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh had "worsened and required urgent attention of the international community to restore peace". He said he was encouraged by the quick response by the Security Council to send a fact-finding mission including a technical element for humanitarian assistance. He warned however that there would be "more bloodshed" if peace-keepers were not dispatched to the area.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has stated that "it is not at present feasible" to undertake peace-keeping activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina "beyond the existing limited involvement of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo and in the Mostar region". In both places, he noted, the security of United Nations personnel was already "precarious". With regard to the situation in Croatia, the Secretary-General said "developments" since the Security Council authorized the United Nations peace-keeping operation in that region, "have raised new doubts about the practicability of that operation".

Those were the two main conclusions in the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council, dated 12 May, based on observations made by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding on his recent visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Goulding's mission was to examine the feasibility of dispatching a United Nations peace-keeping operation in that region.

The Secretary-General said in his report that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina was "tragic, dangerous, violent and confused" and that "any successful peace-keeping operation" had to be based on "some agreement between the hostile parties". He pointed out that the establishment of UNPROFOR's headquarters in Sarajevo had "not prevented a savage conflict from breaking out there", and noted that these were "not the conditions which permit a United Nations peace-keeping operation to make an effective contribution".

With regard to a request made by Bosnia-Herzegovina's President Izetbegovic for the United Nations to deploy an "intervention force which would be sent in, without the consent of all parties, to enforce an end to the fighting", the Secretary-General stated that "such a concept would require

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many tens of thousands of troops equipped for potential combat with heavily armed and determined adversaries". He said he did not believe that such an enforcement action was "a practicable proposition". As for the protection of humanitarian programmes, the Secretary-General said he could not recommend that the Security Council pursue a United Nations role in providing armed escorts of convoys of relief supplies.

If an agreement was reached by the parties to end hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it might "in this case turn out to be more appropriate for the European Community, rather than the United Nations, to undertake the peace-keeping as well as the peace-making" efforts in that region, the Secretary-General said.

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While in Washington D.C. today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali delivered a speech at the ninth annual David M. Abshire lecture, hosted by the Centre for Strategic Studies and International Studies, on the subject of United Nations peace-keeping and peace-making.

The Secretary-General stressed the increased demand for United Nations peace-keeping forces, indicating that since 1988, 13 such operations had been set up. This increase in demand for United Nations role in peace-keeping, he said, presented many new questions for the Organization, such as financing. In 1987, for instance, the Member States of the United Nations were asked to pay $233 million for peace-keeping, while, for the next 12 months, the bill for such operations would amount to approximately $2.7 billion, the Secretary-General said.

Pointing to the regional organizations, the Secretary-General stressed that the United Nations "must share the work with others" and that an effort should be made to "decentralize" the responsibilities for peace-keeping. The problem at present, he said, was that the regional organizations had almost no experience and lacked the necessary structures; furthermore, most of them were in an even worse financial condition than the United Nations.

As for the United Nations resource problem, Mr. Boutros-Ghali proposed the creation of a revolving capital fund to insure the future potential of the Organization's peace-keeping operations, as well as an immediate payment plan for member States. He said there was often a gap between the Security Council's decision to set up a new operation and its deployment in the field which could "jeopardize" the success of the operation.

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The Secretary-General met yesterday with the United States President George Bush at the White House in Washington D.C. Following the private consultations, President Bush informed the Secretary-General that he had decided to attend the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro next month.

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According to a press release issued at Headquarters yesterday, President Bush expressed to the Secretary-General his full support for the peace-making and peace-keeping activities of the United Nations and assured him that he would work with Congress so that the United States would meet its financial contributions regarding the United Nations. Among other topics disussed during the meeting yesterday were the importance of the United Nations role in economic, social and humanitarian issues, and the situation in Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General visited this morning the United Nations Information Center in Washington. He was to return to New York this evening.

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The voter registration for United Nations-supervised free and fair elections in Angola, scheduled for September, will take place from 20 May through 31 July, a United Nations spokeswoman said today.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, had been informed of the registration dates by the National Electoral Council which was established on 9 May. The elections in Angola will take place on 29 and 30 September this year.

The spokeswoman said that 30 of the initial observers envisaged for the registration phase had arrived in Angola and were being deployed to the 18 provincial capitals. There were 350 Military observers, in addition to 90 United Nations police observers positioned in 67 locations throughout the country, as stipulated in the peace Accord signed in Portugal on 31 May last year. Ms. Anstee had been holding regular meetings with Angolan political leaders and representatives of other legally constituted parties about the electoral process.

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Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been appointed Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Director of the Bureau for Africa. In that capacity, she will lead UNDP activities to assist Governments in Africa, the region with the largest number of least developed countries. She will also plan for, and promote the social and economic well-being of Africans. A Liberian national, Ms. Johnson Sirleaf is the first woman to head a UNDP Regional Bureau.

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14 May 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is "greatly concerned" over renewed outbreak of hostilities in Sarajevo today; calls on all parties to halt fighting and to cooperate with efforts of United Nations Protection Force to bring about cease-fire; the Security Council holds consultations on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina; the Committee on Admission of new Member States to consider membership of Slovenia and Croatia tomorrow.

+ Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, in address at Disarmament Conference in Geneva, says United Nations approach to arms control and disarmament issues will be "action-oriented and be given high priority".

+ New Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Edward Joseph Perkins, presents his credentials to Secretary-General.

+ Environmental youth activists from over 40 countries gather at Headquarters for two-day 1992 Global Youth Forum.

+ Secretary-General to open week-long Congress on international trade law at Headquarters next Monday, 18 May.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed great concern about the renewed outbreak of hostilities in Sarajevo today and has called urgently upon all forces in the city to halt the fighting, according to a statement today. He also urged all concerned to cooperate with the efforts of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to bring about a cease-fire.

In a statement issued through his Spokesman, the Secretary-General said he deplored the loss of life and destruction in Sarajevo. He was particularly concerned about the safety of the United Nations Protection Force headquarters personnel in Sarajevo, who number about 350. The plan for their partial and

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temporary relocation had not been implemented when heavy fighting resumed this morning. They now find themselves in a dangerous situation and had taken shelter at three different locations.

According to the statement, the outbreak of fighting occurred when Muslim forces attacked Yugoslav Federal Army (JNA) positions early this morning, and the JNA responded with heavy artillery. The Deputy Force Commander and Chief of Staff of UNPROFOR have been trying to negotiate a cease-fire, but the meeting had so far been precluded by the fighting. It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged for tomorrow morning.

With regard to the safety of United Nations personnel in Sarajevo, the Spokesman said the United Nations personnel had been caught in a crossfire between the two fighting groups. He said 275 United Nations staff had taken refuge in the bunker of the hotel where they were staying.

According to the Spokesman, the Arab group had requested a formal meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council was currently holding bilateral consultations on the Secretary-General's report on Bosnia-Herzegovina and on the situation in the area.

Also tonight, the Security Council has decided to refer the admission of Slovenia and Croatia for membership to the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of new Members. The two requests will be considered tomorrow morning.

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In an address today at the plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Vladimir Petrovsky, emphasized that the United Nations approach to arms control and disarmament issues would be "action-oriented and be given high priority". Those issues were now increasingly recognized as constituents of an international security agenda in which issues should be addressed through preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping.

The Under-Secretary-General expressed his fervent hope that delegates would successfully overcome the remaining obstacles towards the finalization of a chemical weapons convention during this session. The Secretariat was ready to be an active partner with member countries in promoting new approaches to disarmament and arms control issues, Mr. Petrovsky said.

The second part of the Disarmament Conference, which began on Monday, 11 May, is scheduled to end on 26 June.

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Edward Joseph Perkins, the new Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, today presented his credentials to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

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Mr. Perkins was previously Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Personnel at the United States Department of State. He was also Ambassador to South Africa from 1986 to 1989, and Ambassador to Liberia from 1985 to 1986. Prior to his service with the State Department, he was employed with the Agency for International Development.

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More than two thousand youth activists from over 40 countries gathered at United Nations Headquarters today for the two-day 1992 Global Youth Forum. They will bring with them details of projects that they have developed to help alleviate environmental problems in their local communities.

The Global Youth Forum has been organized annually by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 1988, but this year's Forum is the largest to date and the world's largest international environmental youth gathering. Guest speakers from a variety of disciplines will augment the youth conference, joining with UNEP leadership to mark the 20th anniversary of UNEP's founding in 1972.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will open a week-long Congress on international trade law on Monday morning, 18 May, in the General Assembly Hall.

Organized by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Congress forms part of the twenty-fifth session of UNCITRAL, which is currenly meeting in New York, and is a contribution to the activities of the United Nations Decade of International Law. The Congress, the theme of which is "Uniform commercial law in the twenty-first century", will conclude on Friday, 22 May.

Participants in the Congress, including practicing lawyers, corporate counsels, ministry officials, judges, arbitrators and teachers of law, will receive up-to-date information and practical guidance concerning principal legal texts of universal relevance, and will voice their practical needs as a basis for future work by UNCITRAL and other agencies involved in the unification and harmonization of international trade law.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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15 May 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council holds consultations on draft resolution concerning situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina; formal meeting expected this evening.

+ United Nations announces cease-fire agreement reached in Sarajevo, effective immediately, following talks under United Nations auspices; talks between the parties to resume tomorrow, if cease-fire holds.

+ At United Nations Headquarters, Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina calls on international community to react urgently to situation to prevent "complete annihilation of people and destruction of the country".

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees launches urgent appeal for $34 million to aid 230,000 Somali and Ethiopian refugees who have sought sanctuary in neighbouring Kenya.

+ Second session of Convention for a Democratic South Africa begins today in Johannesburg.

+ Director-General of International Atomic Energy Agency pays official visit to Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning nuclear programme.

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The Security Council was scheduled to hold a formal meeting this evening to consider a draft resolution put forward by Belgium, France and the United Kingdom concerning the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking to correspondents last night following consultations by the Council on the Secretary-General's report on the deteriorating situation in the area, Japanese Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Yoshio Hatano, called the report "a grim, discouraging report". Expressing optimism, British Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay, said the Council hoped to adopt a resolution which would "give the Secretary-General full backing" for his peacekeeping efforts in Croatia. He

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said the resolution contained "clear, political messages", calling for the withdrawal of the Yugoslav National Army (JNA) from Bosnia-Herzegovina; the disarming of people who remain behind; and the cessation of interference in the region. The Council was also expected to call attention to the urgent need for humanitarian assistance to the suffering people in the area.

The British Ambassador said Council members "are of one mind" that the United Nations "should not walk away from this problem" in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said Council members would ask the Secretary-General to keep his decision "under review" in order to be able to "move quickly in a humanitarian spirit", should the situation change.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that a cease-fire agreement had been reached in Sarajevo, effective immediately, following talks which took place at the headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the city, under the auspices of the United Nations. If the cease-fire holds, he said, the talks between the parties will resume tomorrow morning.

On the situation of the 300 United Nations staff at the Rainbow Hotel in Sarajevo, the spokesman said most of them were working today at headquarters in the city, and the rest were moving freely in the hotel. Another 50 staff, who were with the UNPROFOR Commander in a convoy trying to reach headquarters, had been detained at a Serbian road block for several hours and the Commander was working on their freedom of movement at the moment.

Concerning the operation in Croatia, the spokesman said the demilitarization operation of forces in the east sector in Croatia began as scheduled this morning.

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At a press briefing today at Headquarters, Mr. Silajdzic said there would be "hundreds of thousands of victims" of the current conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina if nothing was done. Tens of thousands of people in Mostar and Sarajevo were threatened by starvation and by the constant shelling from heavy artillery. He added that all that was left was the hope that "they run out of shells before we run out of people".

Asked about his reaction to the Secretary-General's report before the Security Council, he replied that "that report says what the United Nations cannot do; our greatest hope is that the Security Council will finally say what the United Nations can do". The Foreign Minister expressed the hope the humanitarian situation will be addressed and that destruction will be stopped by placing all heavy artillery under international control. He also called for the creation of security zones in the capital of Sarajevo, its surroundings and the airport in order to ensure the relief support.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has launched an urgent appeal for $34 million to aid 230,000 Somali and Ethiopian refugees who have sought sanctuary in neighbouring Kenya.

In a statement today, the Agency said the refugees, who are fleeing civil warfare, drought and famine, at the rate of about 2,800 a day, are arriving in "appalling condition". They are badly malnourished and many die within a few days of reaching the Agency's already overcrowded camps. The rising death rate has alarmed Agency officials.

UNHCR officials say there is strong indication that the influx will continue as the fighting in Somalia has shown "no signs of abating", and they have predicted a caseload averaging about 287,000 people. The Agency says food delivery is "inordinately expensive" and cited the location of camps in particularly remote, arid and semi-arid areas as one reason. The drought has also made it impossible to purchase basic food supplies on the African continent and has made it necessary to import food from Europe, the Agency said.

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The second session of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA II) -- the negotiating forum for transitional arrangements leading to democratic rule -- began this morning in Johannesburg.

In an interview with United Nations Radio today, the head of the three-man United Nations observer delegation to the Convention, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Chinmaya Gharekhan, described the session as "crucial" and said the future of South Africa would depend on the outcome of this session of CODESA. Yesterday, Mr. Gharekhan met with the President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), Nelson Mandela. He said additional meetings were planned for today and tomorrow with Mr. Mandela and the leaders of other political organizations.

The United Nations supports the negotiating process for a democratic South Africa and participated as an observer in the first meeting of CODESA last December. According to a United Nations Spokesman, "the Secretary-General attaches great importance to CODESA II and urges all the representatives of the South African people to make a concerted effort at CODESA II in order to establish the foundation for a new constitution for a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa".

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At the invitation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, accompanied by senior advisers, is paying an official visit to that country from 11 to 16 May.

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In the course of the visit, the Director-General and his advisers met with Premier Yon Hyong Muk; the Minister of Atomic Energy, Choi Hak Gun; the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kang Sok Ju; and other officials.

During meetings with North Korean officials, the Director-General was assured that the entire nuclear programme of the country was devoted to peaceful purposes, that the safeguards agreement would be scrupulously respected and that, with a view to creating transparency and confidence, officials of the Agency could visit any site and installation they wished to see, irrespective of whether it was found on the initial list submitted to IAEA.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1143
18 May 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General receives report by Special Envoy Vladimir Petrovsky on his recent mission to Tripoli; Libya declares its acceptance of resolution 731 (1992) and invites United Nations committee to inspect its territory at any time; says its health sector has been "most seriously affected " by aerial embargo.

+ Security Council demands end to fighting and interference in Bosnia-Herzegovina; asks Secretary-General to keep under review possibility of deploying United Nations peace-keeping mission in that region.

+ Security Council recommends to General Assembly admission of Croatia and Slovenia to United Nations membership.

+ State of Cambodia releases 108 prisoners in response to United Nations appeal for humanitarian amnesty for detainees, according to spokesman for United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

+ Two scientists - Professor Qu Geping, of China, and Professor Yuri Izrael, of the Russian Federation -- awarded the 1992 United Nations Environment Programme Sasakawa Environment Prize.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that the Secretary-General had received a report from Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, his Special Envoy to Libya, on his recent mission to that country. According to the spokesman, the Secretary-General was now continuing his consultations with interested parties in accordance with the mandate given to him by the Security Council.

The Secretary-General asked Mr. Petrovsky on 7 May to travel to Tripoli in the framework of resolution 731 (1992) and 748 (1992). The Security Council had requested under resolution 731 (1992) of 20 January that Libya cooperate in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. On 31 March, the Council set a 15 April deadline for

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Libya to comply with its request and spelled out the sanctions against it in case of non-compliance. The sanctions -- currently in effect -- include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on diplomatic staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular post abroad.

During his visit to Tripoli on 12 May, Under-Secretary-General Petrovsky delivered to Colonel Qaddafi a letter from the Secretary-General "regarding the need for full and effective implementation without delay of resolution 731 in all its aspects". Mr. Petrovsky brought back a letter from the Secretary of the People's Committee of External Liaison and International Cooperation of Libya addressed to the Secretary-General.

In that letter, dated 14 May, Libya declares that there are "no terrorist training camps or terrorist groups or organizations in its territory" and invites "a committee from the Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat or any appropriate United Nations body to investigate this at any time". The letter states further that Libya will not "in any way permit its territory, its citizens or its institutions to be used directly or indirectly for the perpetration of terrorist acts". It says Libya accepts resolution 731 and is ready to "implement its provisions relating to definitive renunciation of terrorism in all its forms and of whatever origin".

The letter further states that Libya undertakes "to deport from its territory any person who has proved to be involved in terrorist acts" and that "the competent authorities in Libya have not rejected the principle of surrendering the two individuals under suspicion".

According to a second letter to the Secretary-General, dated 13 May, the Libyan health sector had been "most seriously affected " by the aerial embargo imposed by resolution 748. The departure of many nurses, physicians and technicians had left great confusion in the field of medical care, the letter said. With regard to medical supplies, many medicines needed to be transported speedily from processing and preparation sites to storage sites. Lack of transportation had led to disruption of treatment, prevention, inoculation and diagnosis programmes, such as the child inoculation programme, the letter said.

Both letters were signed by the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, Ali Ahmed Elhouderi.
(S/23918 - S/23915)

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The Security Council has demanded an immediate end to the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the immediate cessation of all outside interference, including by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and elements of the Croatian army. It has also asked the Secretary-General to keep under review the possibility of deploying a United Nations peace-keeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council took that action by its unanimous adoption of resolution 752 (1992) at a formal meeting on Friday evening, 15 May.

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Expressing deep concern about the "rapid and violent deterioration of the situation" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Council demanded that those units of the JNA and elements of the Croatian army there now must either be withdrawn, become subject to the authority of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, or be disbanded and disarmed. In the latter case, their weapons would be placed under effective international monitoring. In that connection, the Council asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to consider what assistance the United Nations could provide. It further demanded that "all irregular forces" in Bosnia-Herzegovina be disbanded and disarmed.

The Council also demanded that all parties and others concerned cooperate fully with the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) and the European Community Monitoring Mission, and respect fully their freedom of movement and the safety of their personnel.

Also by the resolution, the Council emphasized the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and called on all concerned to ensure that conditions are established for the unhindered delivery of such assistance. It asked the Secretary-General to keep under active review the feasibility of protecting the international humanitarian relief programmes which could be monitored by United Nations military observers.
(SC/5407)

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The Security Council has recommended to the General Assembly that the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia be admitted to United Nations membership.

The Council's action came during two consecutive meetings this morning, when members adopted, without a vote, resolutions 753 and 754 (1992). After the adoption of the resolutions, the Council President, Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), on behalf of the Council, read out statements in which he extended congratulations to the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

If the two Republics are admitted, the total membership of the United Nations will reach 177.

* * *

One hundred and eight prisoners were released by Cambodia on Friday, 15 May, according to a press communiqué today from the Spokesman of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The release was in response to an appeal for a humanitarian amnesty for detainees made by UNTAC at a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) on 7 May.

At the meeting, UNTAC put forth that there were a number of persons detained in Cambodia, in various locations, who are not prisoners of war or civilian detainees, as defined in the Paris Accord, signed last October. UNTAC proposed that the Council consider granting amnesty for some of these detainees, with priority given to the sick, elderly and minors; those detained for lengthy periods of time without having appeared or been sentenced before a

(more)

court; and petty offenders and others who were not considered to be a serious threat to society.

According to the Cambodia Ministry of National Security, the prisoners were released from two locations. On one occasion, the release was witnessed by UNTAC officials.
(CAM/150)

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Two scientists -- Professor Qu Geping, of China, and Professor Yuri Izrael, of the Russian Federation -- have shared the 1992 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Sasakawa Environment Prize.

The Prize, worth $200,000, is acknowledged as the sole United Nations Award given annually to individuals or institutions for outstanding contributions to the environment.

The two winners of the 1992 Prize were announced by Dr. Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's Executive Director. The presentation will be made during World Environment Day celebrations this year on 6 June, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1144
19 May 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations fact-finding mission to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh will travel to area tomorrow, carrying humanitarian aid.

+ UNHCR-sponsored humanitarian convoys carry urgently needed food and medicine to tens of thousands of displaced people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

+ Frédéric Maurice, delegate of International Committee of the Red Cross, dies of injuries received yesterday in attack on Red Cross convoy in Sarajevo.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Mohammed Sahnoun, to travel to Paris and Geneva before going to Mogadishu for negotiations on coordinated approach to humanitarian assistance to that country.

+ Secretary-General welcomes release in Afghanistan of former Soviet prisoner of war.

+ Security Council welcomes announcement by United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia to start phase two of cease-fire agreement on 13 June.

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The fact-finding mission sent by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh to study ways of bringing about a peaceful settlement of the conflict there, will arrive in the region tomorrow, 20 May, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Following consultations in Rome and Geneva, the mission is now proceeding to Athens where a cargo plane has been put to its disposal by the Greek authorities. The mission, which is headed by Francesc Vendrell, Director in the Department of Political Affairs, will carry with it medicine and other humanitarian aid.

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The dispatch of the fact-finding mission was welcomed by the Security Council last week in a statement read out by Council Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), on behalf of the Council. The statement called on all concerned "to take all steps necessary" to bring an end to the violence and to facilitate the mission which is also intended to examine how the internaitonal community can provide prompt humanitarian aid to the region.

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Two humanitarian convoys sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) left Zagreb today, carrying 650 metric tonnes of urgently needed food and medicine to towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina where tens of thousands of people displaced by the conflict have gathered.

According to a press release issued by UNHCR today, the 38-truck relief operation is the largest since the outbreak of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina six weeks ago. A third convoy, destined for Tuzla from Belgrade, was delayed by reports of heavily mined roads and new tension around that town. Another effort to reach Tuzla will be made tomorrow.

* * *

Frédéric Maurice, a delegate of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), died this morning at the civilian hospital in Sarajevo of injuries received yesterday in an attack on a Red Cross convoy, according to a press release issued by the Committee today.

Mr. Maurice had been injured together with two other ICRC staff by an explosion of a Red Cross convoy carrying emergency medical supplies for the civilian hospital in Sarajevo. The ICRC said the incident happened in circumstances that remained to be clarified.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Mohammed Sahnoun, will leave New York tonight for Paris where he will have discussions with a team of the French Ministry of Health and Humanitarian Affairs, a United Nations spokeswoman said today. He would then go to Geneva for discussions with the Director-General of World Health Organization (WHO); the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Following his meetings in Europe, Mr. Sahnoun would go to Mogadishu where he would continue his discussions with the Somali leaders on the question of Security Council's resolution 751 (1992). He would also travel to the south of Somalia to work on a cease-fire agreement to end the hostilities there. Mr. Sahnoun would be back in New York at the end of the month.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali welcomed today the release in Afghanistan of a former Soviet prisoner of war, calling it "a good step in the right direction". He said he hoped it represented "the beginning of the resolution of this humanitarian problem".

The statement was issued by the Secretary-General's Spokesman François Giuliani.

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Members of the Security Council have welcomed the announcement by General Sanderson, the Force Commander of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) that phase two of the cease-fire arrangements will begin on 13 June.

In announcing its start, General Sanderson called the second phase "the most important" phase of the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Cambodia. The date signals the beginning of the regroupment and "cantonment process" in which the armed forces would place themselves under UNTAC control in cantonment areas to be disarmed and await demobilization. The process is expected to take about four weeks.

The President of the Security Council has expressed the Council's firm support to the UNTAC operation, saying that Council members considered it vital that UNTAC have the full cooperation of the parties and their full compliance with the United Nations plan.

Council President Peter Hohenfellner (Austria) made the statement in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 14 May.
(S/23928)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1145
20 May 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council recommends to General Assembly the admission of Bosnia-Herzegovina to United Nations membership; Assembly to take up Council's recommendation on Friday, 22 May, together with recommendations to admit Slovenia and Croatia.

+ Secretary-General, addressing former international civil servants, calls for their support in promoting process of decentralization.

+ Secretary-General, in address to Trade Law Congress, stresses new prospects for standardizing commercial law in next century.

+ Fact-finding mission to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh rescheduled "for technical reasons"; mission to leave Athens tomorrow, 21 May.

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The Security Council recommended at a formal meeting this afternoon that the General Assembly admit Bosnia-Herzegovina to United Nations membership.

At a previous meeting this morning, the Council had decided to refer action on Bosnia-Herzegovina's application to the Committee on Admission of New Member States. The Council President, Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), proposed that the Committee meet immediately to consider the application.

The Council was acting in response to a letter from Bosnia-Herzegovina containing the application and a declaration by Haris Silajdzic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina, on behalf of the Presidency of the Republic, that his country accepted the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and was willing to carry out those obligations.

The General Assembly is expected to take up the Security Council's favourable recommendation on Bosnia-Herzegovina on Friday, 22 May, together with the admissions of Slovenia and Croatia to United Nations membership.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, addressing the annual meeting of the Association of Former International Civil Servants today, described the expansion of the United Nation's work, in a situation of inadequate funding and stretch personnel resources.

"Never before have its services been requested with such frequency, not only in its traditional role of peace-keeping and peace-making, but in new roles, including providing assistance to democratic institutions in countries of the third world. Never before have the expenses incurred by the United Nations in the service of peace been so great. And never before have we been in greater need of funds," he said.

Summing up the successes and failures of the Organization in the 141 days since he took office in January, he cited, among other issues, his optimism about the operation in Cambodia, the shipment of humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia and preparations underway for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June. Efforts which had been "less than successful", he said, included those in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Western Sahara and Libya.

He outlined the initiatives he had undertaken to streamline functioning and improve coordination within the United Nations system, with regional organizations and with non-governmental bodies around the world. Commenting on moves to decentralize the Organization's activities, he asked the former employees to help form a bridge with the non-governmental community, in whose work, he pointed out, many of them were now involved.

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Many United Nations member countries would like to see a political and economic transition that involved a substantial revision of the law in many areas, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Congress on International Trade Law of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on Monday, 18 May.

In his opening address to the Congress, he said such revision could serve as a necessary accompaniment to the positive trends and might also provide a remedy for the disturbing trends towards instability and conflict which many of the world's regions were currently experiencing.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the unification of international trade law was one means of promoting international trade and, at the same time, economic development. He warned against legal differences which could create a veritable labyrinth of norms in which only the most powerful could find their way.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that the fact-finding mission to Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia had been rescheduled "for technical reasons". Mission members would leave Athens tomorrow, 21 May, for

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Armenia, and continue to Baku on 24 May. On 26 May, the misssion would go to Nagorno-Karabakh before returning to New York on Thursday, 28 May.

The mission was dispatched to the region by the Secretary-General to study ways of assisting the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in bringing about a peaceful solution to the conflict in the region. The Security Council welcomed the dispatch last week in a statement which called on the parties "to take all steps necessary" to bring an end to the violence in the region.

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